

Less-Than-Honorable Mention:

1860's Super Shyster

From Don Berkebile, Mercersburg, PA, comes the material leading to the first such "award" to be given out. It goes to Charles A. Dunham, called a "totally unscrupulous New York lawyer" in the Jan. 1996 issue of *The Barnes Review* in an article titled "The Conspiracy Against the Constitution: The Railroading of Jefferson Davis" by Ralph P. Forbes.

DD does not have any information that could establish the identity of this man, so we can only summarize what data we have from this article & from a page from *The Lincoln Conspiracy* by David Balsiger & Charles E. Sellier, Jr.

Both of these references deal with the "conspiracy" that resulted in Lincoln's assassination on April 14, 1865 & the perjured witnesses who figured in the arrests of those conspirators & also attempted to involve Jefferson Davis in the plot. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton was the acknowledged leader of the nefarious scheme which was designed to negate Lincoln's desire to heal the divisive wounds that the Civil War had created & to treat the South with reason & mercy.

Playing a leading role among Stanton's henchmen was Charles A. Dunham, who wrote the scenarios for government witnesses to detail, & then coached these men in the appropriate courtroom theatrics. (These witnesses included a convicted burglar & an army deserter who escaped the death sentence in exchange for his false testimony.)

It is noteworthy that Dunham did not engage in these activities under his own name. His most prominent alias was "Sanford Conover," & he was also known as "James Watson Wallace." How his true name was discovered is not known, but perhaps he had relatives whom he didn't want to have shamed by his chicanery.

One of Dunham/Conover's "drama students," a Dr. James B. Merritt, later broke down & confessed to a committee of the House of Representatives that he had perjured himself when he testified, & that he had been paid \$6000.00 to do it. Dunham/Conover's own testimony was called into question when he swore to conflicting stories, & by mid-summer he was thoroughly discredited, though he remained on the government payroll. Finally Stanton turned against this conspirator who had become a liability & selected him to take whatever blame had accrued. Thus our kinsman was subsequently convicted of perjury & sentenced to prison for a 10-year term in February, 1867.

However, Dunham/Conover wasn't done yet. He still had some tricks up his sleeve -- & undoubtedly some damaging inside information. In 1869 he succeeded in getting a pardon, & apparently slipped from history's notice.

What happened to him after that? And what slot could he have occupied on the family tree?

Speed Gets the Shot



It isn't easy to take a photo off a television screen. You have to aim the camera at an oblique angle, &, to get a specific shot, you have to be fast--- SUPER FAST. Luckily for Editor Phyllis Kitson, A&E's *Biography* aired the life of Marilyn Monroe more than once, & the 2nd time she saw it she was ready with her camera, set to get the shot of Charles Stanley Gifford (1898-1965)(10)(John 1, Jonathan 2, Gershom 3, David 4, David 5, Thankful Dunham Gifford 6, John A. Gifford 7, Charles A. Gifford 8, Frederick A. Gifford 9) -- the father of Marilyn Monroe. (See 8/95 DD).

This program said that Gifford was a movie producer.

In a book about Marilyn Monroe's life it said that she had once made an attempt to talk with him, but when she went to his door, he turned her away, explaining that he had other children in the house & that he didn't want them to know about her. While Charles Stanley Gifford didn't acknowledge this well-known daughter, *Biography* had no hesitancy about discussing their relationship, & once it had been aired on national television, it can't be much of a secret. Perhaps the Gifford children are thrilled to have such a famous half-sister.

OPINION POLL RESULTS

The response to our Dec. '97 appeal for readers' opinions on the advisability of publishing negative material about Dunhams has been very gratifying. All mail received so far on the question has been in favor, which was quite surprising. We've especially enjoyed one letter which waxed philosophical on the issue & which convinced a reluctant editor. This letter pointed out the changes in public opinion as to what constituted a scandal to be hidden at all costs--& just plain interesting history. Another especially valuable response suggested what we feel is the most practical solution: to go ahead & publish negative information provided that it is at least 100 years old & therefore officially "antique." So this is what DD's policy will become, & we'll invite further material of this kind as long as it is from that long ago, but we'll continue to honor the secrets of any & all living cousins when those secrets are less than 100 years old. Bring on the dirt, but make sure that it is appropriately dry!

Dunham-Donham List, 13:07 04.06.97, Time Line, Part I

To: Dunham-Donham List
From: "Gratia S. Mahony" <gmahony@bts.sk>
Subject: Time Line, Part I
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Numerous people have asked me if I had undertaken any research on the English ancestry of Deacon John Dunham. Here to fore my answer has been that I have not; that I want to try to straighten out the Dunham genealogy beginning with Deacon John Dunham. However, before I left for our vacation trip to England, I contacted Robert L. Ward who wrote the TAG article Vol 71:130-33 about the possible English Ancestry of John Dunham. I have asked him to undertake some research on my behalf.

As promised to the Dunham/Donham list, the following Time Line re: John Dunham and the Separatists may be of interest. It ties in with the material I sent out yesterday about our visit to Gainsborough Old Hall. It will be in two parts.

Part I

1566/7 Wm. Brewster b. prob. in Doncaster, Yorkshire

1575 Wm. Brewster, Sr. appointed to manage Scrooby Manor

1575/6 John Smyth, grad. from Christ's College, Cambridge

1580 Wm. Brewster attended Cambridge

1582 Wm. Brewster began to work for the Puritan Sir
Wm. Davison

1585 Wm. Brewster visited Holland w/ Sir Wm. Davison

1589 Wm. Brewster ret. to Scrooby and took over (from his father) the running of the manor and the postmaster's job

1589 JOHN DUNHAM born

1589/90, March 19, William Bradford bap. in Austerfield
County York

1600-02 John Smyth, Preacher of City of Lincoln

1602 Wm. Brewster met the young Wm. Bradford who came to Babworth from village of Austerfield (in Yorkshire, but very near Scrooby) (Babworth is in Lincolnshire, abt. 8 miles s. of Scrooby) John Robinson was of Sturton-le-Steeple, just slightly south west of Gainsborough. Richard

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Clyfton was rector at the Babworth Church, about 6 miles from Scrooby.

1603/4 March, John Smyth deposed for his "strange doctrines" by the Bishop of Lincoln

1603/4 John Smyth of record in Gainsborough

1606 After harassment by ecclesiastical authority, Smyth separated from State Church and gathered a band of worshippers from surrounding country

1606 late in the year, Gainsborough congregation split into two groups, the smaller group now meeting at Scrooby. By 1606 Richard Clyfton, formerly rector at Babworth was pastor of the Scrooby Separatists. John Robinson became Teacher of Richard Clyfton's Scrooby cong. Wm. Brewster was Elder.

1608 Smyth and followers left Gainsborough to join Separatists at Amsterdam

1608 Scrooby Church sailed for Holland, leaving from Killingholm Creek near Grimsby on the Humber estuary

1609 April, Scrooby Church moved to Leyden, John Robinson became their pastor

1612 Aug., John Smyth died in Amsterdam

1612 JOHN DUNHAM m. Susan Kaino, 17 Aug. 1612, Clophill, Bedfordshire (from IGI)

(John Dunham would have been 23 years old at marriage)

1614/15, Feb. 19, baptism of John, son of John and Susan, in Henlow, Co. Bedford

** See Part II, Effort to Find Proof

1622 John Dunham m. (second) Abigail Ballou in Leyden

1624 John Dunham witness when Abigail's sister Anna m. Nathaniel Walker in Leyden, Holland

1624, Oct. 5, Richard Dunham made his will, left to son John "my best shirte and Twenty shillings in mony to be payd him at his retorne" (at the time John was in Leyden)

1624, Nov. 19, Richard Dunham, father of John, buried at Langford, Co. Bedford



Nov. 8, 1997 was the date of the wedding of Olga Faytlina & Nicholas S. Taylor, grandson of Phyllis Kitson (12)(John 1, John 2, John 3, Ebenezer 4, Ebenezer 5, Jonathan 6, Ralph 7, Francis S. 8, Samuel E. 9, Miriam Dunham Ferriss 10, Lillyn Ferriss Barclay 11). The wedding took place at an historic (1832) church in Livonia, MI, followed by a wonderful reception at the Fox Hills Country Club in Plymouth, MI. This photo shows the bride & groom with their 3 grandmothers: the bride's paternal grandmother; the groom's maternal grandmother, Phyllis Kitson; & the bride's maternal grandmother. Olga was born & raised in the Ukraine, coming to the U.S. with her family after high school graduation, & just in time to enroll at the University of Michigan. Now both bride & groom are graduates of that institution, & for Nick, that has become something of a family tradition, as his grandmother, both parents, & his brother are also U. of M. grads. After a honeymoon in Rome & Paris, the couple is now back at home in Farmington Hills, MI.

This wedding was such a wonderful occasion that Nick's proud grandma has to show off a picture from it at every possible opportunity! In fact, you may see more such photos in future issues.